

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of creating ~~converting~~ an electronic wallet, comprising steps of:

providing, via a computing device, ~~a thin-wallet account~~ providing a first set of services, the first set of services requiring a single authentication level;

presenting, via a computing device, ~~a thin-wallet account~~holder a one-time challenge/response mechanism; and

if the ~~thin-wallet account~~holder clears the challenge, creating ~~converting~~, via a computing device, ~~the thin-wallet account to a full wallet account~~ requiring for subsequent transactions multiple authentication levels and providing a different set of services for each authentication level.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the challenge/response mechanism requires an accountholder to provide information known only to the ~~thin-wallet account~~holder.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing the ~~thin-wallet account~~ first set of services comprises either of the steps of:

creating, via a computing device, the ~~thin-wallet account~~ first set of services when making an initial purchase; and

creating, via a computing device, a record in a subscriber database.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein subscribers include subscribers to any of:

an online service; and

an ISP (Internet service provider).

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of presenting a challenge/response mechanism comprises steps of:

requesting, via a computing device, a service from within the ~~thin-wallet account~~ first set of services that is only available from within a full wallet account; and

one time only, prompting, via a computing device, the ~~thin-wallet account~~holder holder of the first set of services to provide the information known only to the ~~thin-wallet account~~holder holder of the first set of services.

6-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the different set of services for each authentication level comprise tasks requiring greater security than the level of security provided by said single authentication level.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the additional tasks comprise any of:

editing the default account information;

editing account preferences;
making purchases that exceed a predetermined purchase amount; and
making purchases at sites that require additional authentication beyond
said single authentication level.

10-11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the information known only to the holder of the first set of services thin-wallet-account-holder comprises at least a portion of a credit card number stored in the first account.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12, further comprising steps of:
if the holder of the first set of services thin-wallet-account-holder doesn't clear the challenge, allowing, via a computing device, a predetermined number of attempts to enter the information known only to the holder of the first set of services thin-wallet-account-holder; and

if the holder of the first set of services thin-wallet-account-holder fails the predetermined number of attempts, allowing, via a computing device, the holder of the first set of services thin-wallet-account-holder to provide a new credit card number; and

presenting a challenge based on the new credit card number.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising steps of:

configuring, via a computing device, the challenge by an account provider, wherein configuring the challenge includes:

- specifying information requested by the challenge; and
- specifying a permissible number of response attempts.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of converting the first set of services ~~thin-wallet-account~~ comprises steps of:

creating, via a computing device, a record in a ~~full~~ wallet account database;

providing, via a computing device, notice of a privacy policy; and

consenting, via a computing device, to the privacy policy by the holder of the first set of services ~~thin-wallet-account holder~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein the step of creating an electronic wallet ~~converting the thin-wallet-account~~ further comprises a step of:

creating, via a computing device, at least a second-level challenge.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein the step of creating at least a second-level challenge comprises any of the steps of:

setting, via a computing device, a second-level password; and

configuring, via a computing device, a security question by the holder of the first set of services ~~thin-wallet-account holder~~.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising a step of:
providing, via a computing device, a user interface accessible only to
holders of full wallet accounts to edit account information and preferences.

20-21. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a tangible
medium having computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer code
configured including program code means for performing a method of creating
~~converting~~ an electronic wallet, the method comprising steps of:

providing a ~~thin wallet account~~ providing a first set of services, the first set
of services requiring a single authentication level;

presenting a ~~thin wallet account~~holder a one-time challenge/response
mechanism; and

if the ~~thin wallet~~ accountholder clears the challenge, creating ~~converting~~
the ~~thin wallet account~~ to a full wallet account requiring multiple authentication
levels and providing a different set of services for each authentication level.

24-49. (Cancelled).

50. (Currently Amended) A system for converting an electronic wallet comprising:

a wallet server;

a wallet database;

a subscriber database, wherein said wallet database is distinct from said subscriber database;

wherein the wallet server is in communication with the wallet and the subscriber databases;

a client in communication with the wallet server, wherein a wallet accountholder requests services from the wallet server; and

a computer program executing on said wallet server, said computer program configured comprising computer code means for:

providing ~~a thin wallet account~~ providing a first set of services, the first set of services requiring a single authentication level;

presenting a holder of the first set of services ~~thin wallet accountholder~~ a one-time challenge/response mechanism; and

if the holder of the first set of services ~~thin wallet accountholder~~ clears the challenge, converting the first set of services ~~thin wallet account~~ to a full wallet account requiring multiple authentication levels and providing a different set of services for each authentication level.

51 - 80. (Cancelled).